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Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 53/242 OF 28 JULY 1999: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director has the honour to circulate herewith, for the information of members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, his report on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999: Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 53/242: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

2. As part of his overall proposals and measures for United Nations reform, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (A/53/463), in which he put forward the recommendations of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements which he had established, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to assist him in preparing proposals on reforming and strengthening United Nations activities in the fields of environment and human settlements. The General Assembly considered, in plenary session, the report of the Secretary-General in the context of item 30 of the agenda (United Nations reform: measures and proposals). Subsequently, at an informal plenary meeting of the Assembly's resumed fifty-third session, the President of the Assembly appointed a coordinator (Mr. Asadi, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Chairman of the second committee of the fifty-third session), with a view to facilitating an open and transparent procedure of consultations and reaching agreement in the Assembly, on the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

3. A series of seven open-ended informal consultations were held, characterized by an open and productive exchange of views, and resulted in an agreement on a draft resolution, which was approved by consensus on 28 June 1999. The draft resolution, subsequently submitted by the President to the General Assembly, was formally adopted on 28 July 1999. Resolution 53/242 is contained in the annex to the present document. The resolution takes into account and builds on the views of the UNEP Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, as contained in decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999, and represents a considerable advance in the reform of the environment and human settlements activities of the United Nations system.

4. Resolution 53/242 is a valuable and important contribution by the General Assembly to the process of the United Nations reform in the field of environment and human settlements, and should be seen within the overall reform of the United Nations system launched by the Secretary-General. The bulk of the recommendations proposed by the Task Force were adopted by the General Assembly in a comprehensive and balanced resolution, which provided clear and solid support to the strengthened roles of UNEP and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat). The resolution sent a very positive signal and provided enhanced impetus to the continuing reform exercise within UNEP, further equipping the organization to fulfil its mandate, while building on its key areas of competence.

5. The present report provides an overview of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 since its adoption on 28 July 1999, highlighting the key operative paragraphs of the resolution for UNEP and providing information on what progress there has been under specific items at this early stage. The Secretary-General is also expected to report to the

General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 53/242.

6. The status of implementation with regard to the operative paragraphs of resolution 53/242, since its adoption on 28 July 1999, is outlined in the following table.

Table

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Recommendation	Action taken to implement the recommendation
Paragraph 2 Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in its capacity as the only United Nations headquarters located in a developing country, through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including by proposing additional regular budget resources, as envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, for the consideration of the Assembly, with due regard for proper United Nations budgetary procedures;	In the biennial programme budget for 2000-2001, the Secretary-General is proposing to increase the regular budget resources to the United Nations Office at Nairobi Administration by $1,840,000, plus $396,000 to the newly established office of the Director-General. In the light of resolution 53/242, this issue will be further examined through consultations between UNON and the United Nations Secretariat, in order to ascertain what further strengthening in resources is required and feasible.
Paragraph 3 Encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to take steps to increase the level of utilization of the Office, and in this regard encourages other agencies, funds and programmes to consider increasing their utilization of its facilities for their activities;	The utilization level of UNON conference facilities is steadily increasing, with, inter alia, the following meetings planned: (a) Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 10-20 April 2000; (b) Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 15-26 May 2000; (c) Governing Council of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (scheduled to be held in Nairobi in 2000); (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the preparatory committee for the five-year review of progress since Habitat II, 27 April-5 May 2000;

	(e) Fifth expert group meeting on financial issues of Agenda 21 (organized jointly by the United Nations, the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) 1-3 December 1999; and (f) Ad hoc group meeting on the creation and strengthening of linkages between the formal and the informal sectors in Africa (organized jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the Special Coordinator for African and Least Developed Countries, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York), 7-9 December 1999.
Paragraph 4 Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, as well as their separate Executive Directors;	The programmatic linkages and cooperation between UNEP and the UNCHS (Habitat) continue to be strengthened, inter alia, through collaborative activities such as a project on water management in African urban areas, the city alliance programme (with the World Bank), and the Joint UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) Balkans Task Force established by the Executive Director in May 1999, to examine the direct environmental and human settlements impacts of the conflict in the Balkans. In the light of resolution 53/242 and the outcome of the restructuring exercise of UNCHS (Habitat), proposals will be made for further strengthening the coordination of the programme activities of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat), for consideration by both governing bodies.

Paragraph 5 Supports the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with the Member States and members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the mandate, terms of reference, appropriate criteria for membership and flexible, cost-effective working methods of the proposed environmental management group and to submit them to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session;	Through a process of consultation with the other members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), UNEP is currently refining the draft terms of reference for the Environmental Management Group, and plans to initiate the process of consultation with Governments in the near future.
Paragraph 6 Welcomes the proposal to institute an annual, ministerial-level, global environmental forum, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constituting that forum in the years that it meets in regular session and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council, in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, with due consideration for the need to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications, and the need to maintain the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the main forum for high-level policy and debate on sustainable development;	In view of the Assembly's endorsement of the recommendation and the support expressed for the proposal by the Governing Council in decision 20/17 of 5 February 1999, the UNEP secretariat has undertaken consultations with the Bureaux of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, with a view to deciding on the feasibility and modalities for convening the first ministerial-level forum in June 2000, including proposals for the venue and the provisional agenda of the session.

Paragraph 7 Supports the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with adequate resources to perform this task;	In cooperation with the respective governing bodies of the conventions, UNEP has undertaken a series of initiatives to develop coherent interlinkages among the conventions and promote their effective implementation, primarily through the development and work of the Division on Environmental Conventions. To achieve its objectives of enhancing the identification of cross-cutting issues among conventions and assisting in the couching of common policy and programmatic approaches, UNEP will organize regular consultations between the Bureaux of the Governing Council and of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, UNEP will also consult the heads of the secretariats of the conventions to strengthen areas of cooperation, and define areas of complementarities, while avoiding unnecessary duplication. The highest priority has been given to the revitalization of the regional seas conventions and action plans. In addition to building stronger bridges between the regional seas conventions and action plans and global conventions and related international agreements, substantial progress has been made in a number of other areas such as: promoting and facilitating horizontal cooperation; integrating their work into the implementation, development and use of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA); strengthening their capacity in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; identifying priority areas in their work programmes, particularly for conventions and action plans in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, which require programmatic support from UNEP; and strengthening the information management capacities including improved exchange of information among and with global environmental conventions and related international agreements. In this regard, stronger linkages between the 14 regional seas conventions and action plans and seven global environmental conventions and related international agreements forged made at the second global meeting on regional seas conventions and actions plans held in the Hague from 5 to 8 July 1999. The global conventions considered at that meeting included:

	(a) Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); (b) International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with special emphasis on the impacts of climate change, including coral bleaching; (c) Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals; (d) Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; (e) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The meeting identified areas of possible collaboration and cooperation as well as modalities for strengthening collaboration among these entities. The first meeting of subsidiary scientific and technical bodies of conventions will be held in Bonn, on 25 October 1999, at the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It will explore areas of collaboration at the scientific and technical levels, giving special attention to linkages among assessments and their implications for policy-setting and decision-making. The chair of the subsidiary bodies of the following conventions, as well as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), have been invited and to date all but two have confirmed their participation: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention to Combat Desertification; CITES; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the

	Mediterranean; and Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area. In addition, on the margins of the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held on 26 and 27 October, UNEP and the World Bank will be hosting the meeting of the reconstituted group of experts on interlinkages among global environmental issues, many of which have been addressed through conventions and human needs. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been invited to be a partner in the interlinkages process. This group will follow up on the first interlinkages assessment report entitled "Protecting Our Planet - Securing Our Future: Linking Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs". The principal outcome of this meeting will be a detailed work plan as a follow-up to the first report, including possible regional reports and interlinkages management tools.
Paragraph 8 Welcomes the proposals for the involvement, participation and constructive engagement of major groups active in the field of the environment and human settlements, with due consideration for the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations;	The UNEP secretariat is currently examining procedures and practices governing the participation of major groups, in light of the experience of other intergovernmental bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. Following this review, recommendations will be made to the Governing Council for enhancing the participation of major groups at its sessions, as well as operational guidelines and modalities for enhanced programmatic collaboration with and engagement of major groups. A Civil Society and Non-governmental Organizations Liaison Unit has been established in the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law to forge the above-mentioned collaboration. The unit organized a meeting between African non-governmental organizations and UNEP on partnership in action, in Nairobi, from 20 to 22 September 1999, in preparation for the conference of non-governmental organizations, to be held in Seoul in October 1999.

Paragraph 9 Reiterates the importance of strengthening the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within the framework of their existing mandates, in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental and human settlements trends and early warning information on environmental threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, and in this context emphasizes the importance of strengthening the system-wide Earthwatch as an effective, accessible and strictly non-political science-based system;	In this regard, UNEP has undertaken a series of initiatives to strengthen its activities in this field. These include the development of a comprehensive, integrated and forward-looking strategy for the UNEP information, assessment and monitoring role which will be presented to Governments and is designed to enable UNEP to fulfil its mandate of keeping under review the state of the environment, building on: (a) The technical capacity of a network of centres of excellence in developed and developing countries; (b) The assessment and dissemination of information on the state of the global environment and emerging issues through the Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO-2000) report; (c) The associated Caribbean, Pacific Islands and Western Indian Ocean environment outlook reports; (d) The GEO for Youth publication (Pachamama Our Earth Our Future); (e) Sectoral assessments of key environmental issues, such as GIWA, and the millennium assessment of the state of the world's ecosystems, the People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC) programme and the Desert Margins Programme (DMP); (f) The expansion and strengthening of a network of environmental information and monitoring centres of excellence, such as the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in the field of biodiversity information management, the clearing house of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for information and assessment on land-based activities of marine pollution. At present, UNEP is exploring the possibility of establishing centres of excellence in other key environmental areas requiring monitoring and assessment such as land degradation. Meanwhile, the UNEP global environmental information exchange network, INFOTERRA, is being reformed to ensure better public access to

	information, for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the public to participate in environmental decision-making. An early warning capability of emerging environmental issues and threats is also being developed by the UNEP network of Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres.
Paragraph 11 Stresses the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment and human settlements, must remain important components of the work programmes of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within their existing mandates, and also stresses, in this regard, the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts;	The development and implementation of the work programme for the Division for Environmental Policy Implementation will fully encompass capacity-building and technical assistance activities. In this regard, UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) will, in the 2000-2001 biennium, and pending the availability of resources (both financial and human), collaborate to hold at least one seminar or training workshop or expert group meeting or advisory mission, depending on the requirements of countries and regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, west Asia and countries with economies in transition, such as: (a) Capacity-building activities for elected officials as guardians of the environment, Green Town Project and the Kenyan Organization for Environmental Education (KOEE); (b) Green towns and cities (including urban agriculture); (c) Technical assessment and assistance missions to countries affected by environmental and human settlements emergencies; (d) Disaster preparedness consultative meetings in cities and towns (in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and others) to consider and improve a draft strategy on environmental emergencies;

	(e) At least one pilot project in different locations in the areas of solid waste management, incorporating environmental or public health considerations and water in the context of the "Water for Cities" initiative; (f) Best practices and local Agenda 21 initiatives in the UNCHS (Habitat) Best Practices scheme for cities and facilitation and support to local initiatives awards by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and Saitama Prefectural Government, along with the Earth Council and Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Division for Sustainable Development.
Paragraph 12 Also stresses the need to enhance further the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, consistent with its role as defined in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;	Considerable progress has already been made in this regard. The adoption at the twentieth session of the Governing Council and at the thirteenth session of the GEF Council of the action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by UNEP under GEF and its programme of work, is a major step in this direction. In June 1999, the Executive Director approved the operational modalities for the implementation of the action plan. The UNEP/GEF programme coordination committee, entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the action plan will finalize its recommendations to be included in the UNEP work programme for the biennium 2000-2001. In addition, the UNEP/GEF strategic partnership for the fiscal year 2000 has been finalized and is expected to be adopted by the GEF Council.
Paragraph 14 Welcomes the proposal to continue ongoing work in the development of indicators in the field of environment and human settlements, and in this regard stresses the importance of the need to avoid duplication of efforts.	Work on environmental indicators will be strengthened in the context of the development of the UNEP comprehensive strategy for its information, monitoring and assessment programme, with due regard for the need to avoid duplication of efforts, particularly with respect to the work being undertaken in the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Annex

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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10 August 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 30

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.78)*]

53/242. Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 A of 12 November 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform",

Reaffirming its determination to strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations, including in the field of environment and human settlements, and thus improve its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements[1] and the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements annexed thereto, which contain recommendations on reforming and strengthening the activities of the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements,

Expressing its appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Task Force for their commendable work,

[1] A/53/463.

Conscious of the continued deterioration of the global environment and the state of human settlements, despite some positive achievements, as well as of the need to strengthen the institutions of the United Nations charged with responsibility for environment and human settlements, to improve their performance and to promote coordination in the implementation of the environmental and human settlements dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in their Nairobi location and of ensuring the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources necessary to both organizations for the fulfilment of their mandates, as contained in General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 32/162 of 19 December 1977, as well as in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997,[2] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[3] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996, including by seeking additional financial resources through broadening the range of sources of funding for both organizations, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,

Taking into account the views of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Taking into account also the views contained in decision 20/17, adopted on 5 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[4] and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 17/6 of 14 May 1999,[5] concerning the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to strengthen the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements, and in that context takes note of the general thrust of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,[1] proposing actions to be taken by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and takes note also of the recommendations outlined in section IV of the report;

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] See A/54/25, annex I. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25.*

[5] See A/54/8, annex I. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8.*

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in its capacity as the only United Nations headquarters located in a developing country, through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including by proposing additional regular budget resources, as envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, for the consideration of the Assembly, with due regard for proper United Nations budgetary procedures;

3. *Encourages* the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to take steps to increase the level of utilization of the Office, and in this regard encourages other agencies, funds and programmes to consider increasing their utilization of its facilities for their activities;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, as well as their separate Executive Directors;

5. *Supports* the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with the Member States and members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the mandate, terms of reference, appropriate criteria for membership and flexible, cost-effective working methods of the proposed environmental management group and to submit them to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal to institute an annual, ministerial-level, global environmental forum, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constituting the forum in the years that it meets in regular session and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council, in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, with due consideration for the need to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications, and the need to maintain the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the main forum for high-level policy debate on sustainable development;

7. *Supports* the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with adequate resources to perform this task;

8. *Welcomes* the proposals for the involvement, participation and constructive engagement of major groups active in the field of environment and human settlements, with due consideration for the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within the framework of their existing mandates, in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental and human settlements trends and early warning information on environmental threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, and in this context emphasizes the importance of strengthening the system-wide Earthwatch as an effective, accessible and strictly non-political science-based system;

10. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution;

11. *Stresses* the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies in the field of environment and human settlements, must remain important components of the work programmes of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within their existing mandates, and also stresses, in this regard, the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

12. *Also stresses* the need to enhance further the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, consistent with its role as defined in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;[6]

13. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission on Human Settlements in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[7] emphasizes the need for it to take steps to prepare for the review of its implementation in 2001, and welcomes the proposals that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should strengthen its core activities and develop into a centre for excellence with regard to human settlements;

14. *Welcomes* the proposal to continue ongoing work in the development of indicators in the field of environment and human settlements, and in this regard stresses the importance of the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

105th plenary meeting
28 July 1999

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[6] UNEP/GCSS.IV/2.

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.